

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information
WEEK OF: February 12-19, 2011

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlighted activities relate to: monitoring, wolf-livestock interactions, outreach and education, research, law enforcement, and other miscellaneous topics of public interest. The Weekly Report will be available each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2009 annual report) can be found on the FWP website.

WOLF MONITORING ACTIVITIES:

Flights:

2/18 - Nelson conducted a routine monitoring flight.

2/20 – Laudon conducted a routine monitoring flight.

2/21 – Laudon conducted a routine monitoring flight.

2/12 - Bradley reported that during an elk capture operation in the East Fork of the Bitterroot, two wolves were opportunistically net-gunned by the Quicksilver crew. Both wolves (an adult male and an adult female) were members of the Divide Creek pack and were collared and released. FWP is stepping up monitoring of wolf packs in the East and West Fork of the Bitterroot as part of the elk research project that is just getting underway.

WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:

2/17: Bradley reported that FWP hung fladry around a calving pasture in Rock Creek, east of Missoula on the 17th.

2/18: Bradley reported that a landowner southwest of Darby reported shooting (and missing) at a wolf in his calving pasture. This same landowner had losses during calving season from the Trapper Peak pack in both 2009 and 2010. Efforts were made to remove the pack in 2010 but around 4-5 wolves are still believed to be in the area.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

Nothing to report.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

Nothing to report.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES:

2/13 – Bradley reported a collared wolf from the Sula pack was found on mortality in the Bitterroot Valley. The case is under investigation.

2/18 - Nelson and game warden, Jim Miller, retrieved a wolf mortality in the Gardiner Basin.

OTHER UPDATES:

Nothing to report.

To learn more about Montana's wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP online. Use the following shortcut link and be sure to update your bookmarks: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT or 1-800-847-6668.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 406-458-0106 or in eastern Montana at the statewide office at 406-657-6464. Or, call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock death loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp> Or, contact the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator, George Edwards at the Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-5609.